

**MINUTES  
MADISON COUNTY TSEP PUBLIC HEARING #2  
APRIL 16, 2008  
SHERIDAN, MT**

A public hearing was opened at 7:05 P.M. at the Sheridan Town Hall in Sheridan for the purpose of obtaining views from residents of the County regarding the Preliminary Engineering Reports and submittal of a Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) application for the replacement of four bridges. Present were Commissioners Dave Schulz and Marilyn Ross, Dan McCauley of Great West Engineering, and three members of the public (see attached sign in sheet). Dave briefly explained the results of the March 12, 2008 meeting recently held in Ennis and the success the Commission has had with the MDT in rearranging priority projects. In particular, the County was able to switch the Duncan District Bridge off-system project for the Varney and Blaine Springs project. The Varney and Blaine Springs project is estimated at \$5 to \$10 million, much more than the County can afford.

Dave turned the meeting over to Dan. Dan discussed the TSEP program, noting that it is a State of Montana program, administered by the Department of Commerce and funded from interest off of Coal Trust Fund revenues. Applications are due May 2, 2008, and the legislature will make formal approval of projects next winter. Eligible applicants include Counties, Cities, Towns, Districts and Tribes and may request up to a \$500,000 grant but must provide at least a 50% match. Dan further stated that the County has used the TSEP program aggressively for its bridge needs, and this is the fourth application to be submitted to TSEP since 2002. Other communities in the County have also benefited from the program including projects for water and wastewater in Twin Bridges, water in Sheridan, wastewater in Alder, water and wastewater in Virginia City, water and wastewater in Ennis and wastewater in Harrison.

Dan provided and went through in detail a handout for everyone to follow (see attached handout). He explained the four proposed bridge projects: the Duncan District Road Bridge over the Ruby River, the Waterloo Road Bridge over the Parrot Canal, and the two Jack Creek Bridges over Jack Creek. He discussed the current issues with each bridge, explained the proposed improvements and went through the estimated costs. Dan noted that detailed information was included in the PERs which were available for review at the meeting and the commission office. Dan said that should the project be funded, the bridge improvements would occur no sooner than fall of 2009 but more likely during 2010.

Dan then explained the TSEP application and its contents. The total project cost is \$826,406 of which the County will have to provide up to \$380,989 in cash, and \$17,214 in in-kind services to match the TSEP share of \$413,203. He further explained that the county was also getting credit for an additional \$15,000 used as match for preparation of the PERs. It was stated that the project will not involve a raise in existing taxes to the constituents since the County's match is coming from its normal operating budget.

Dave opened the hearing for questions.

Shane mentioned that there are issues with other bridges in the Waterloo area. Marilyn and Dave stated that the proposed bridge is the commissioner's highest priority at this time and that the commission did look at including other Waterloo Bridges in the application ultimately deciding that they could not afford them at this time.

Ray voiced concern on the erosion occurring next to the road upstream of the Duncan District Bridge. Dan said that if this is serious, it may have to be dealt with now since work on the bridge is two years out.

All showed support for the project with no opposition.

The Hearing adjourned at 7:40 P.M.